



ATTACHMENT A

REMARKS

Before considering the requirement for an election of species, it is noted that claim 47 has been amended to correct an obvious error therein.

Turning to the election of species, applicant hereby provisionally elects Species 7 which is said to include claims 18-25 and 32-44. However, it is respectfully submitted that Species 2 defines essentially the same invention or aspect of the invention. In this regard Species 7 is a method that employs, in essence, a plurality of synchronized universal series buses claimed in Species 2. Both Species 7 and Species 2 relate to locking a local clock to a local reference signal (the signal merely different between the two species). For example, claim 3 (of Species 2) defines "circuitry to observe USB traffic and to lock a local clock signal of a USB device to a period signal contained in USB data traffic." Claim 18 (of Species 7) recites, inter alia, "monitoring USB signals local to said USB device for said specific signal structure; generating a local reference signal at each of said USB devices from said specific signal structure; and locking the frequency of said local clock signal at each of said USB devices to said local reference signal to a predetermined degree."

The species of claim 18 also has a counterpart in claim 47 (in apparatus form). Claim 47, which has been amended to correct an obvious clerical error therein, recites apparatus for locking the local clock (forming one component of the apparatus of claim 47) and this is merely an apparatus for carrying out the method of claim 18, as will be apparent from a feature by feature comparison. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Species 9, which consists of claim 47, should also be examined along with Species 7.

In summary, although Species 7 is elected here, it is respectfully submitted that Species 9 and 2 are, in fact, basically the same species as Species 7, i.e., are so closely related as to belong to a common species, and thus that the claims of these species, viz., claim 47 of Species 9 and claims 3-7 of Species 2, should be examined along with claims 18-25 and 32-44 of Species 7.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

END REMARKS